

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to teach a first conduit that is connected to a sample holding chamber on a first end and a valve that is connected to an opening at the opposite end of the first conduit, wherein the pump and valve are configured such that closure of the valve allows for fluid in the second conduit to flow into the first conduit or permanent closure of the valve upon contact with the sample.

Schnipelsky et al. teach a sample holding chamber for receiving the sample and a first conduit connected to the sample holding chamber, a second conduit connected to the first conduit and a valve connected to an opening in the first conduit. However, the valve of Schnipelsky et al. is a one-way check valve and the fluid from the second conduit cannot flow into the first conduit upon closure of the valve, and if the valve of Schnipelsky et al. is a valve that is permanently closed upon contact with the sample, the fluid cannot flow from the second conduit into the first conduit. Therefore Schnipelsky et al. fail to teach the pump, valve and first and second conduits configured such that the fluid from the second conduit can be displaced into the first conduit upon closure of the valve and also fail to teach a valve that permanently closes. Also the valve in the first conduit is not at the opening of the first conduit that is opposite the end of the conduit connected to the sample containing chamber and is in the middle of the first conduit.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1641

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELANIE YU whose telephone number is (571)272-2933. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melanie Yu/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1641

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